

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CHRISTOS SOUROVELIS, DOILA WELCH,
NORYS HERNANDEZ, and NASSIR GEIGER
on behalf of themselves and all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA; MICHAEL A.
NUTTER, in his official capacity as Mayor of
Philadelphia; PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; R. SETH WILLIAMS,
in his official capacity as District Attorney of
Philadelphia; and CHARLES H. RAMSEY, in
his official capacity as Commissioner of the
Philadelphia Police Department,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 2:14-cv-04687-ER

Assigned to
the Honorable Judge Robreno

Special Management Track

**JOINT MOTION TO EXTEND
DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN
DISCOVERY**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26, Plaintiffs Christos Sourovelis, Doila Welch, Norys Hernandez, and Nassir Geiger ("Named Plaintiffs") on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (collectively "Plaintiffs"), Defendants City of Philadelphia, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey ("City Defendants"), and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and District Attorney R. Seth Williams ("District Attorney Defendants"), (collectively, the "Parties"), respectfully submit this Joint Motion to Extend Deadline for Written Discovery until Friday, March 4, 2016. In support of their Motion, the Parties state as follows:

1. The current deadline for written discovery on Counts 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Amended Complaint is January 22, 2016. (Order, ECF No. 101.)

2. In an effort to streamline this litigation, the Parties are currently negotiating a potential settlement that would—if executed by the Parties and approved by this Court on behalf of a settlement class—fully resolve Counts 3, 4, and 6 of the Amended Complaint.

3. Counsel for the District Attorney Defendants has informed Plaintiffs that, after engaging in a series of negotiations with the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, changes to the process by which forfeiture cases are prosecuted and administrated in the Court of Common Pleas have been implemented, effective January 5, 2016.

4. In order to sufficiently evaluate whether these changes will resolve Plaintiffs' Third, Fourth, and Sixth Counts, and to properly represent the interests of unnamed class members in the settlement discussions, Plaintiffs may need to conduct additional written discovery, including a possible third-party subpoena duces tecum. *See, e.g., Gay v. Tri-Wire Eng'g Sols., Inc.*, No. 12-cv-2231, 2014 WL 28640 at *6 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 2, 2014) (holding that the procedural fairness of a settlement hinges, in part, on whether the parties “have engaged in the discovery . . . necessary [for] effective representation of the class’s interests”) (citing *D’Amato v. Deutsche Bank*, 236 F.2d 78, 85 (2d Cir. 2001)). Specifically, Plaintiffs will require corroborating documents from the First Judicial District regarding the new procedures for administering forfeiture and related proceedings.

5. Accordingly, the Parties respectfully request that written discovery be extended until Friday, March 4, 2016.

Dated: January 20, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

For Plaintiffs

By: /s/ Darpana M. Sheth

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Darpana Sheth, hereby certify that, on this 20th day of January, 2016, true and correct copies of Joint Motion to Extend Deadline for Written Discovery were electronically filed using the Court's ECF system and sent via the ECF electronic notification system to the following counsels of record:

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